

## **Collection and Disposal of Carcasses**

1. Bird carcasses should not be handled with bare hands. Wear gloves or use a garbage bag over your hand to collect carcasses.
2. Individuals that are surveying beaches for avian mortality and are collecting species for submission for examination or for disposal should wear rubber, plastic or disposable gloves. Wash hands after handling.
3. The avian carcasses should be placed in garbage bags – the number of birds/bag will depend on the size of the birds and the quality of the garbage bags used. Bags should be tied closed. Any birds found bearing a band should be reported using the contact information printed on the band.
4. Carcasses can be disposed of either by including them with your household trash or by burying them. If you are burying the carcasses you need to do so away from the shoreline, remove them from the garbage bag(s), and bury them at least 2 feet deep. Burying them to this depth will discourage other animals from unearthing them. Do not compost.
5. Property owners may bury animals on their own land. Dead birds should not be removed from another landowner's property without permission. If dead birds are found on state or federally owned lands contact the respective agency's local personnel.
6. Once you finish handling carcasses, dispose of your gloves in a garbage bag and place them in the trash to go to a landfill.